M	Data	Class
Name:	Date:	Class:

# **⊗** BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET

# Tracking income for a farming family

Having a clear picture of monthly net income can help you manage your money.

Income can be regular (same amount of money earned each week or month) or irregular (inconsistent amounts of money earned each week or month).

### Instructions

- 1. Review the details of the Rodriguez family case study.
- 2. Complete the "Weekly earnings snapshot" for February and July.
- 3. Complete the "Income tracker" to calculate the family's monthly income for February and July.
- 4. Reflect on how their earnings change as a result of irregular income.
- 5. Provide Luisa and Miguel advice to help them plan for irregular income.

# Case study: The Rodriguez family

Luisa and Miguel Rodriguez are married and live in a rural farming area. This is their story.

- Luisa and Miguel graduated from the same high school and have been married six years. They have a 2-year-old daughter named Maria.
- Miguel has worked as a peach farmer since he graduated from high school. He was recently promoted to crew manager. This work is seasonal. From April through October, Miguel works eight-hour days, five days a week. He earns \$14.42 per hour before taxes. Each week, he has \$173.04 in deductions

#### **KEY TERMS**

**Income:** Money earned or received.

Net income: Money you bring home in your paycheck after taxes and other deductions are taken out; also called take-home pay. subtracted from his paycheck, which represents 30 percent deducted for taxes, etc. Miguel was lucky to get a job as a security guard at a warehouse in the off-season. He works 20 hours a week and makes \$11 per hour (before taxes) and has \$66 deducted each week for taxes, etc.

- Luisa works as a server at a local restaurant. Her sister cares for Maria when Luisa works on Thursday afternoons, and Miguel is home with the baby when she works on Friday and Saturday nights. Luisa earns \$3 per hour plus tips (tips average \$40 on Thursday, \$90 on Friday, and \$130 on Saturday). She pays about \$34.43 toward taxes on her income each week.
- Neither Miguel or Luisa gets paid vacation or sick days.

## Weekly earnings snapshot

How much do Luisa and Miguel make each week in February and July?

Family member	Source	Income calculation	Weekly income: February	Weekly income: July
Luisa	Server	Wages: \$3/hour x 20 hours Tips: \$40 + \$90 + \$130 Deductions: \$34.43 per week		
Miguel	April - October: Peach farmer	Wages: \$14.42 per hour (before taxes) for a regular 40-hour work week Deductions: \$173.04		
Miguel	November - March: Security guard	Wages: \$11 per hour (before taxes) for 20 hours per week Deductions: \$66		
Total weekly net income				

#### Income tracker

Calculate the Rodriguez family's monthly net income for February and July.

- Record Luisa and Miguel's weekly income for the months of February and July.
- Circle regular income to help show what the family can depend on each month.
- Add up the amounts the family receives each week and write the weekly total.
- Add up the weekly totals and record the this family's monthly net income.

#### INCOME AND BENEFITS FOR THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND JULY

	Week 1	Week 1	Week 2	Week 2	Week 3	Week 3	Week 4	Week 4
	Feb.	July	Feb.	July	Feb.	July	Feb.	July
Luisa								
Miguel								
Total weekly income								
Total monthly	income		February:			July:		

# Reflection questions

1. What comparisons can you make between this family's income in February and July?

2.	What if Luisa had an accident and broke her leg in January, and she couldn't work for the month? How might this affect their net income?	

# Planning for irregular income

What advice might you give to help the Rodriguez family plan ahead so they can save some of their summer income to help cover expenses in the winter?